

Nietzsche: A Chronology

I. 1864-1869

1864-67: University student in Bonn and Leipzig

October 1865: Begins to read Schopenhauer

October 1867-68: One-year military service in mounted artillery

Dissertation on the sources of Diogenes Laertius

November 8, 1868: First meeting with Richard Wagner in Leipzig

II. 1869-1876

May 1869: Begins as professor of classical philology at University of Basel (aged 24)

Summer 1870: Service as medical orderly in Franco-Prussian War

The Birth of Tragedy, written 1870-71; pub. 1872; rev. 2nd ed. 1874; new preface 1886

1870-75: lectures on ancient rhetoric and philosophy; various essays on philosophy and culture, associated with the projected *Philosophenbuch* (including "On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense"; "Philosophy in the Tragic Age of the Greeks")

Untimely Meditations

"David Strauss," written spring 1873; pub. August 1873.

"On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life," written fall 1873; pub. 1874.

("In this essay the 'historical sense' of which this century is proud was recognized for the first time as a disease, as a typical symptom of decay." *EH*, p. 276)

"Schopenhauer as Educator," written spring-summer 1874; pub. October 1874.

(To Georg Brandes, April 10, 1888: "This little essay serves me as a signal of recognition: the man to whom it says nothing personal will probably not be further interested in me. It contains the basic scheme according to which I have so far lived; it is a rigorous promise.")

"Richard Wagner in Bayreuth," written summer 1875; pub. 1876.

Convalescent leave winter 1875-76; spring, summer 1876-77

November 1876: Final meeting with Wagner

III. 1876-1882

Human, All-Too-Human, written 1876-77; pub. 1878; 2nd ed. with new preface, 1886.

In *EH*, Nietzsche describes this work as "the monument of a crisis" and as his liberation from idealism.

“Around 1876 I had the shock of seeing my entire previous will compromised, when I realized what it now aspired to with Wagner: and I was very tightly bound to him, through all the ties of the deep unity of needs, through thankfulness, through the irreplaceability and absolute privation I saw before me. Around the same time I seemed to myself inextricably imprisoned in my philology and teaching activities—in an accident and stopgap of my life:- I no longer knew how to get out and was weary, worn out, used up. Around the same time I realized that my instinct aimed in the opposite direction from Schopenhauer’s, toward an affirmation of life itself, in its most terrifying, most ambiguous, most mendacious—for this I had at hand the formula ‘Dionysian’” (KSA 12:354)

In 1879, Nietzsche resigns his professorship because of ill-health and leaves Basel for Italy.

Mixed Opinions and Maxims (Part one of second volume of *HATH*), pub. 1879.

The Wanderer and His Shadow (Part two of second volume of *HATH*), pub. 1879; 2nd ed. of both parts with a new preface, 1886.

The Dawn (Daybreak), pub. 1881; 2nd ed. with new preface, 1887.

The Gay Science, Parts I-IV, pub. 1882; 2nd ed. (see below), 1887.

The title page of the 1st ed. carries the following remark by Nietzsche: "This book marks the conclusion of a series of writings [beginning with *Human, All-Too-Human*] by Friedrich Nietzsche whose common goal is to erect *a new image and ideal of the free spirit*."

IV. 1882-1885

Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Parts I and II pub. separately in 1883, Part III in 1884, Part IV in 1885.

"The fundamental conception of this work, the idea of the eternal recurrence, this highest formula

of affirmation that is at all attainable, belongs in August 1881" (*EH*, p. 295; cf. *GS*'342).

V. 1885-1889

In *EH*, Nietzsche writes that after *Zarathustra*: "The task for the years that followed now was indicated as clearly as possible. After the Yes-saying part of my task had been solved, the turn had come for the No-saying, *No-doing* part: the revaluation of our values so far" (p. 310).

Beyond Good and Evil, written summer 1885-spring 1886; pub. 1886.

The Gay Science, Part V and new preface, written fall 1886; pub. 1887.

On the Genealogy of Morals, finished July 1887, pub. 1887.

The Case of Wagner, pub. September 1888.

The Twilight of the Idols, written June-Sept. 1888; pub. Jan. 1889.

The Anti-Christ, written Sept. 3-30, 1888; pub. 1895.

[originally intended as the first part of the projected *Revaluation of All Values*]

Ecce Homo, begun Oct. 15, 1888, finished Nov. 4; pub. 1908.

Nietzsche Contra Wagner, a compilation of excerpts from earlier writings, finished Dec. 24, 1888; pub. 1889.

[*The Will to Power*, notes written 1883-1888; first ed. 1901 by Elisabeth Förster-Nietzsche; revised ed. 1904; Nietzsche himself first uses the title "Will to Power" in late Summer-Fall 1885 (KGW VIII/3, v). In GM III, pp. 159-60, he refers to his "work in progress" as *The Will to Power: Attempt at a Revaluation of All Values*. As late as *The Case of Wagner* '7, there is a brief reference to his "main work," indicating that he was working on the project as late as August 1888.]

VI. 1889-1900

January 3, 1889 Nietzsche collapses in the street in Turin. Later is committed to an insane asylum in Jena.

July 1897 His sister Elisabeth moves Nietzsche to her "Nietzsche Archives" in Weimar

August 25, 1900 Nietzsche dies in Weimar